



# Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.5. Hurricane Matthew brought high winds and heavy rains to parts of the State; there were reports of flooding, fallen trees, damage to crops and farm stands, and road closures. Standing water is in some fields, limiting work until weather conditions improve. Farming activities included harvesting corn, apples, and peanuts, calving, and making preparations for the hurricane.

### SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 10/09/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	7	20	51	22
Subsoil	6	21	60	13

- Represents zero.

### CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 10/09/16

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Cotton	-	4	51	45	-
Hay, Alfalfa	3	10	43	41	3
Hay, Other	6	19	37	35	3
Peanuts	-	3	28	61	8
Soybeans	1	17	31	40	11
Pasture	6	26	37	28	3
Livestock	1	5	25	58	11

- Represents zero.

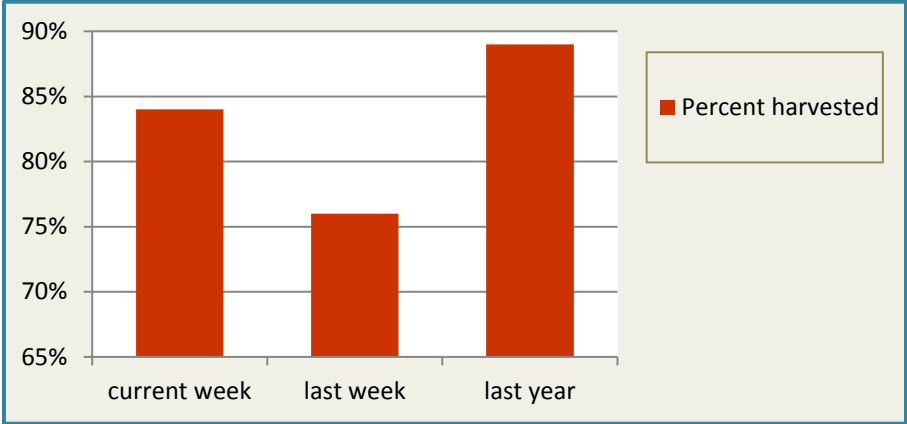
### CROP PROGRESS for week ending 10/09/16

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	84	76	89	-
Barley planted	27	15	30	47
Corn mature	93	89	95	95
Corn for grain harvested	71	63	72	75
Corn for silage harvested	95	91	95	93
Cotton bolls opening	78	66	94	92
Peanuts harvested	26	19	17	18

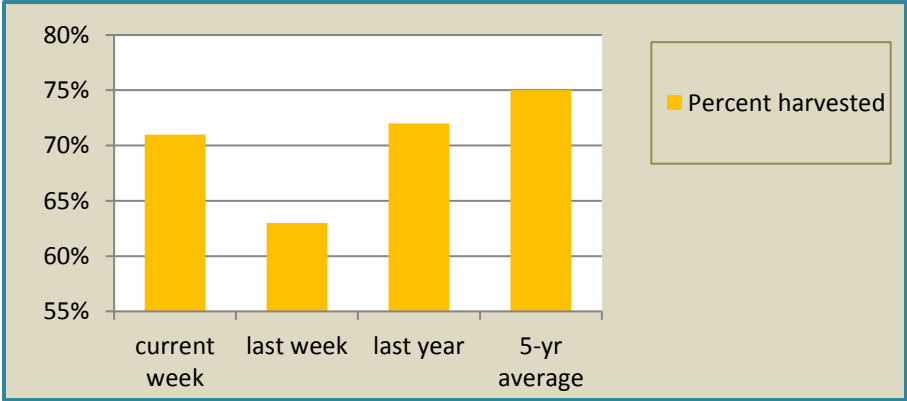
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans dropping leaves	49	36	66	59
Tobacco, Flue-cured harvested	81	76	89	86
Winter Wheat planted	11	6	13	19

- Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 10/09/16



CORN FOR GRAIN HARVESTED for week ending 10/09/16



Weather Summary- For the week ending October 9, 2016

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 8	Mar. 1 to Oct. 8 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	55	78	52	63	3	4035	3639	1.73	5.11	0.25	38.82	4.47
Norfolk	75	67	79	65	71	5	4641	4067	4.03	17.58	12.58	59.95	22.72
Richmond	74	59	79	56	67	4	4316	3944	3.61	14.83	9.86	48.25	13.04
Roanoke	72	57	78	51	64	3	4256	NA	4.30	9.05	4.34	42.82	8.57
Wash/Dulles	73	55	81	49	64	4	4027	NA	0.20	2.95	-1.73	30.94	-1.97

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY** – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Recent rains have stimulated green up and growth in pastures and hayfields.

## WESTERN

### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

Rain associated with a cold front and Hurricane Matthew brought 2 or more inches of rain to the Blue Ridge and the eastern half of Rockbridge while the western parts of the county received much less. The rain was beneficial for Rockbridge farms.

## CENTRAL

### **AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

Like everyone, we experienced significant rainfall with Matthew along with some minor flooding during the storm. Most of the surplus water has drained off our fields, but the fields are very wet. Soybeans are still maturing in mixed stages, with some drying down and some just beginning to yellow. Forages are growing rapidly.

### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Nothing unusual to report.

### **CHESTERFIELD/GOOCHLAND (Charlotte Maxwell)**

Hurricane Matthew hit over the weekend and we saw about 3 inches of rain in one day, no reported damage.

### **NELSON (Michael LaChance)**

Soil moisture is recovering from droughty conditions at the close of summer. High winds on Saturday and Sunday caused some limb damage and apple fruit drop. Cooler weather and forecast is optimizing fruit quality. Farm markets are doing good business as people are shopping for apples, winter squashes, and pumpkins. Field corn is still in the field, mature, and awaiting harvest.

## EASTERN

### **KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

Nothing unusual to report.

### **GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Very decent week for corn harvest. A lot of folks finished up this week. Not good drying weather as we had very little sunshine this week, but we did have some steady wind. Folks spent much of the week making preparations for Hurricane Matthew, but it looks as though we may miss that now. Field prep continues for small grains and cover crop planting. Soybeans continue to drop leaves. Recent rains have helped a lot to improve seed quality, but I think the rain was too late to help yields.

Fall vegetable harvest continues. Maybe some late haymaking next week.

### **ESSEX/KING AND QUEEN/KING WILLIAM (Keith Balderson)**

In response to concerns about the impact of Matthew and the fact that some grain elevators reduced the moisture discount on corn, producers got back in the field and made good progress on harvesting the corn crop. Much of the area reported 3-4 inches of rain from Matthew.

## SOUTHWESTERN

### **GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Hurricane Matthew brought significant rains to the area, but there was only minor stream flooding and no significant wind issues reported. Fall pastures have benefited from recent moisture.

### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Rain showers from the hurricane provided some moisture, but was very sporadic throughout the county ranging from sprinkles to 0.4 of an inch of rain. Pastures are short and farmers are considering feeding hay.

## SOUTHERN

### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

Lots of rain towards the end of the week, roughly 6-7 inches. The ground is saturated. Some flooding on low lying areas. There is still tobacco in the field, but we are making good progress. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Corn is just about harvested. Milo is still standing. Fall calves are hitting the ground, there are still some small/early calves due to seasonal stresses this year.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **SOUTHAMPTON (Livvy Preisser)**

We had a rough week. We had some folks dig and pick peanuts and then the hurricane hit more than we expected. We are hoping for some dry days so farmers can return to the field. Damage is minimal, but we did experience about 10-12 inches of rain with flooding. Damage will be assessed in a few days when they can get to the field again.

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Hurricane Matthew dropped quite a bit of rain on us this weekend. We had trees down and minor to moderate flooding. Water is standing in several fields across the county, the Meherrin River is out of banks on Highway 58. Several roads were closed this weekend due to trees falling or water across them. Some home basements have gotten flooded.

### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Hurricane Matthew dumped 3-4 inches of rain on the county this weekend. Some field work occurred early in the week. Peanuts were dug and combined as field conditions allowed. Some vertical tillage to corn stalks was accomplished in preparation for wheat seeding. Corn is mostly harvested with soybean harvest likely to start in the next couple of weeks.

### **SURRY (Mr. Glenn Slade)**

Hurricane Matthew brought us 7-10 inches of rain and tropical winds. Corn still in the field has suffered varying amounts of wind damage, and it will be a challenge when combines get rolling. We didn't lose power and our roads are still passable. We will need several days of good sunshine to get things dried out so corn, cotton, and peanut harvest can resume. Haven't heard of any structural damage.

### **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)**

Matthew came through the area on Saturday night into Sunday dropping a solid foot of rain. Winds in excess of 50+mph caught everyone off guard since the forecasters all had the storm shifting out to sea well before crossing us. Damage experienced in Virginia Beach included newly planted strawberry plants were washed out of their planting holes, east west strawberry rows had plastic blow up over plants, and one farm stand had over 30 bins of pumpkins and mums wash down the road. Field work is at a standstill till drier weather comes.